

EDITORIAL COMMENT



POST-GRADUATE FACILITIES

THE next great question which must be taken into consideration by training-schools and graduates is that of proper facilities for post-graduate work.

If nursing is to become a profession, with a recognized standard of education as a preliminary requirement, with certain subjects with a minimum amount of clinical experience a necessary part of the curriculum, and then a State examination to test the thoroughness of this training, there must also be provided means by which the woman, once having complied with these requirements, may keep in touch with new lines of research in medicine and new methods in nursing.

To be sure, much may be done by reading, but nursing is a work peculiarly dependent upon manual dexterity, and only the actual practical demonstration of a change in technique can give a nurse the necessary skill.

In Miss Walker's paper given in the last number of this JOURNAL the question of post-graduate work as a growing necessity to nurses is very clearly stated. In a letter from Miss Davis, in this issue, the same subject is considered and some very good suggestions made. Every week this JOURNAL is asked to give lists of training-schools where post-graduate work may be obtained.

We are told that in the commercial world the supply is created to meet the demand, but the demand for post-graduate facilities seems to be pressing, while the supply is not yet satisfactorily forthcoming. Superintendents have difficulty in meeting the demands of the hospital during the vacation months, and yet where the experiment has been quietly tried of taking in graduates to fill the ranks at this season the result has been in too many instances far from satisfactory.

We hear it said that the graduates are unbusiness-like; that when a place has been reserved they cannot be depended upon to fill it; that if a lucrative case happens to come along the engagement with the hospital is not looked upon as binding. We hear that the graduates returning to their own school, especially when there has been a change of administration, are very apt to be critical, to make unfavorable comparisons, to chafe under the necessary discipline of the hospital, and to create a spirit of insubordination among the pupils.

On the other hand, the graduates have complaints that seem many times well founded. They claim that they are promised much, but soon find that they are being used to do the drudgery of the hospital, for which proper service has not been provided, that no provision is made by which they can see operations or specially interesting cases, and that they get little if anything new in return for several weeks or months of very hard work.

There is fault somewhere in the matter of adjustment.

Miss Davis's suggestion, that the demand shall be met by establishing post-graduate schools in *new* hospitals is timely, and with conditions to meet the needs of the experienced pupil instead of a raw recruit this would seem to be one practical solution of the question.

With State registration fully established throughout the country, the training of nurses in special private hospitals will become difficult, and in such hospitals post-graduate schools would seem exceptionally appropriate. In a private hospital with only patients paying liberally for care and treatment each patient occupies a room and is considered as an individual. This would seem to be exactly the kind of experience that the nurse long engaged in private nursing

needs. Such hospitals could well afford a liberal service for the legitimate housework, etc., and with this class of pupils working without *money compensation*, provision for lectures and special instruction along the lines of the work of the hospital could well afford to be given.

We offer these suggestions as "food for thought" to our readers. The question is a vital one. Hospitals proposing to establish such courses must make concession to the skilled class of workers that it will secure, and the graduate must willingly accept the discipline that will be necessary for the welfare of the institution.

With post-graduate schools quite a new relationship is proposed. Superintendents cannot solve the problem alone. The wishes of the graduates must be known and their opinions respected, and all must work together for the best needs of the profession in the future.

THE WORLD'S WAR AGAINST CONSUMPTION

UNDER this heading the first of what we hope to make a long series of papers was commenced in the April JOURNAL. With the continuation of the paper compiled by Miss Dock we have grouped an article bearing on the same subject by Miss Burke, and under this one general heading we shall place from time to time such articles, extracts, or reports as bear upon the great movement for the extinction of this most terrible of diseases.

We specially wish to be kept informed of work upon these lines in the different health resorts of our own country, with regard to sanitarium and camp facilities, with the cost of living, and any advanced treatment which is the result of research or experiment. There is no line of preventive work in which nurses can do more for humanity than to join in this "World's War Against Consumption," if only by a word in time to the ignorant.

The deplorable ignorance of people is the great obstacle in the way of accomplishing very much until the masses have been educated. Miss Fulmer, in the annual report of the Visiting Nurses' Association of Chicago, shows a picture of which we all have some knowledge. Miss Fulmer says:

"The Visiting Nurses' Association is now putting forth plans to call the attention of the public to the great need of taking some organized step in a tuberculosis crusade, as other cities have done. The new cases of consumption number two hundred and twenty-six in one year. Of the three hundred and thirty-seven deaths, sixty were due to this disease. The condition under which these people live, ignorant of the infectious character of their ailment, menaces every individual with whom they come in contact. Day after day the visiting nurses find these poor unfortunates, and many a tale of woe they could tell. Several of these cases have been admitted to the Home for Incurables; several to St. Elizabeth's Hospital, where they have a ward where these cases are taken for a small consideration. Many go to Dunning, but always return after a few weeks there. Few of the cases reported know anything of the nature of their disease. One man living alone, when reported to us, had been accustomed to spitting wherever he happened to be sitting. Literally, everything in the room was covered with the sputa. The milkman who came to him every morning brought a bottle of milk and took away the empty one covered with germs, left standing in a sink, where the patient was apt to expectorate at any time. When the nurse had talked to the man it was proven that he had not realized that he had a communicable disease. This man's soiled bedding, clothing, etc., were taken by a general laundry and washed with other clothes without any idea that disin-

fection was necessary. The man's room was thoroughly cleaned, the filthy bedding burned and new things provided, and every attempt made to see that the patient carried out the instruction to prevent a further spread of contagion, but it was not adequate service after all. Another case was a young man with tuberculosis of the lung and hip as well. He had been changing his own dressings, being able to get about; the old dressings had been thrown in a corner to lie for days. The dressing is now done by the nurse and every possible precaution is taken and instruction given. Another case is a young German widow, who, when found, was sleeping with her children, three beautiful little ones: this not from ignorance, but from necessity. They had but one bed. A separate bed has been provided for the children (new and clean). I cite these cases to show, after all, how far short we come from real interest in the sanitary welfare of our city. If these cases were smallpox they would be ferreted out and immediately isolated, but when every evidence of this great white plague is right in our midst, we dally and deliberate what to do and death and infection still goes on. Many people may discuss this situation in a vague sort of way. They know from public statistics that consumption claims so many victims every year, but the exact state of affairs they cannot conceive. The visiting nurses do not *guess* at these things, they know from actual experience the exact conditions that exist, that two hundred and twenty-six people (and how small a portion this is of the cases that really exist) are suffering with this disease. They are trying as best they can to alleviate the condition, but, after all, their effort is but a drop in the bucket compared to the real needs of the situation. They have nursed, cared for, and instructed the cases that have come to them, but the State and the city should stand sponsor in a public way for a war against the spread of this disease, and the furthering of plans for giving adequate care to those already afflicted."

But one need not belong to an association to fight in this battle. The enemy is at our door, for the ignorance of even intelligent people meets us at every turn, and this kind of ignorance is more difficult to combat than the ignorance of the uneducated.

We feel strongly, as we have said before, that the nurse should be a great factor as an educator along the lines of public health. No other one woman has such opportunities in any community, if only she realize her obligations.

NEW JERSEY SECOND

THE New Jersey bill for licensing graduate nurses, given on another page, was signed by the Governor April 7. We are informed that, owing to the political situation in New Jersey, this bill is only intended as an "entering-wedge," but even to pass this bill the New Jersey State Nurses' Association was obliged to make a very hard fight, and accept several amendments which detract from the usefulness of the measure. Having made the fight, we only regret that the New Jersey nurses did not ask for more in the beginning, but we are not sufficiently familiar with the educational laws of the State to judge fairly of the situation, and we congratulate New Jersey upon the passage of the bill.

ILLINOIS THIRD

THE Illinois bill passed the Assembly unamended April 17.

We publish in the official department part of a letter from the president of the Illinois State Association, which gives the experience of the leaders in combating the opposition to their bill. Such reports are of special value to the States that have not yet reached the stage of legislation, and they also show that the

opposition in all the States will come from practically the same sources—viz., quack or inferior training-schools. We rejoice with the Illinois nurses in the character of the medical support which they received in this struggle, and in such coöperation between the medical and nursing State societies as has been shown in Illinois and New York we predict a broadening of the influences upon all lines that tend for the betterment of the public health.

NEW YORK FOURTH

THE Armstrong bill passed the Assembly April 20, with a majority of 109 to 12.

On April 9 the opposition "Nye" bill was placed on the calendar, and an amendment offered that would make it conform in every particular with the Armstrong bill which had passed the Senate the week before. In spite of Mr. Nye's opposition the amendments were carried with a large majority and the bill sent back to the committee to be reprinted. This large majority was due partly to the influence of the Legislative Committee, who were all present—Misses Allerton, Cadmus, and Damer, with Miss Maxwell, Miss Thornton, and Miss Palmer, who spent two days in Albany at this time. This left the final passage of the bill a matter of form, after which the signature of the Governor would make it a law.

The changes in the bill have not detracted from its educational standards, and the Board of Examiners is to be composed of five members selected from ten nominees of the New York State Nurses' Association. After the bill has been signed by the Governor it will be printed again in these pages.

VIRGINIA

THE Virginia nurses now have a bill before the Legislature very similar to the New York bill.

PENNSYLVANIA

ON Saturday, April 18, the Philadelphia nurses held a mass-meeting to consider organization for State registration. A mass-meeting of the nurses of the entire State of Pennsylvania is being arranged for, to be held in Philadelphia, May 29.

THE BOSTON MEETING

THE annual meeting of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae, of which the announcement is made on another page, is the one great event in the year that all nurses in every section should be interested enough to attend. The official programme will be given in detail in the June number, but even if no provision were made by the committee for the entertainment of the guests, Boston in June, with its wealth of historical interests, its beautiful suburbs, and its attractive harbor, is well worth the journey, but liberal provision is being made for a series of meetings of a highly instructive character, and every day promises something delightful in the way of entertainment.

REDUCTION IN RATES

WE call the attention of nurses of the West to Miss Fulmer's announcement on page 643 in regard to the reduction in transportation rates. If a sufficient number of nurses can be found who will pass over the same line, usually a very

satisfactory reduction in rates can be procured. Do not delay, but write immediately to Miss Harriet Fulmer, 1408 Unity Building, Chicago.

Nurses of the East and South should apply to Miss Mary E. Thornton, 120 East Thirty-first Street, New York City. Nurses who wait until the last moment before making application will not only prevent a satisfactory reduction being secured, but will lose the chance of being included in the arrangement. The committees having such work in hand should be aided as much as possible by prompt action on the part of those who are intending to attend the meetings.

NEW YORK STATE MEETING

THE second annual meeting of the New York State Nurses' Association was held in Albany April 21. The successful passage of the bill in the Assembly the evening before, upon which occasion a large number of the delegates were present, made this meeting one of unusual interest. Changes in the by-laws to meet the rapid growth of the society and the requirements of the new law filled the session with hard work, but this was made easy by the spirit of harmony and good-fellowship that prevailed.

The secretary, Miss Sanford, read a report covering her two years of service, in which she showed that the society organized with a charter membership of fifty-five, and upon its second birthday could show a constituency of fifteen hundred and nine members—a fair proportion of the twenty-five hundred trained nurses of the State.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

One of the changes made in the by-laws requires all applications for membership to be made directly to the chairman of the Committee on Credentials, Miss Anna C. Maxwell, of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York. Until the new law is in operation, if the bill is signed by the Governor, membership will be upon the same lines as heretofore. The next meeting will be held in New York the third Tuesday in October.

THE NEW PRESIDENT.

Miss Annie Rhodes, of the Bellevue Alumnae, was elected president for the coming year. Miss Rhodes is a woman of experience and of sound common sense, and will make an able leader during this most important year of the organization of registration for nurses under the Regents. Her address is 202 West Seventy-fourth Street, New York City.

THE SECRETARY.

The new secretary, Miss McCallum, is the assistant superintendent of nurses of the Post-Graduate Hospital, New York.

The official report of the secretary will be given in the June issue, with an editorial comment of the comparative merits of the different bills. That issue will be made up by Miss Dock, while the editor takes a few weeks of much needed rest, and communications for the June number may be sent directly to Miss Dock, at 265 Henry Street, New York City.